***A Raisin in the Sun* Cause/Effect Essay**

Purpose: To utilize critical thinking skills while evaluating character motives and considering author intention and context influences

**CAUSE/EFFECT ESSAY PROMPTS**

* **While reading and experiencing the play, take notes on each of these prompt ideas.**

A. Consider and discuss the causes for character A’s choices or reactions to specific events and aspects of the play. Think about the influence of socioeconomic (Marxist), feminist, or psychoanalytic factors as you evaluate the causes for this character’s actions.

B. Consider and discuss the effects of character A’s choices or words on other characters in the play. Think about the influence of socioeconomic (Marxist), feminist, or psychoanalytic factors as you evaluate this character’s effects, both long term and short term, on other family members.

C. Consider the effects that the context has on the storyline within this drama. Think about the influence of socioeconomic (Marxist), feminist, or psychoanalytic factors as you evaluate the context’s effects, both long term and short term, on people of this era.

D. Consider a major decision made by one of your characters. Is this decision a revolutionary act that is singular to this character and his/her own motivations, or is the decision more reflective of the spirit of the times?

* **After completing the play, finalize your annotations and reflect on the essay topics.**
* **Write a concise thesis statement for each prompt.**
* **Then, choose the essay prompt you are most confident in to focus on for the timed in-class writing.**
* **You will have one class period to write this essay, using notes you have developed, including at least three direct quotes for support.**